WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A fragmented biocompatible hydrogel which is substantially free from an aqueous phase.

2. The hydrogel of claim 1, having a subunit size when fully hydrated in the range from 0.01 mm to 5 mm.

3. The hydrogel of claim 1, having an equilibrium swell from 400% to 5000%.

4. The hydrogel of claim 1, having an *in vivo* degradation time of less than one year.

5. The hydrogel of claim 1, having at least one characteristic selected from the group consisting of (a) a subunit size when fully hydrated in the range from 0.01 mm to 5 mm, (b) an equilibrium swell from 400% to 5000%, and (c) an *in vivo* degradation time of less than one year.

6. The hydrogel of claim 5, having at least two of the three characteristics.

7. The hydrogel of claim 5, having all three characteristics.

8. The hydrogel of any of claims 1 to 7, said hydrogel being at least partially hydrated with an aqueous medium comprising an active agent.

9. The hydrogel of claim 8, wherein the active agent is a clotting agent.

10. The hydrogel of claim 9, wherein the clotting agent is thrombin.

11. A method for delivering an active agent to a patient, said method comprising administering to a target site on the patient an amount of the hydrogel of any of claims 8 to 10.

12. A composition comprising a fragmented biocompatible hydrogel being substantially free of an aqueous phase, wherein the hydrogel is at least partially hydrated with an aqueous solution of thrombin.

13. A composition as in claim 12, wherein the hydrogel comprises a protein.

14. A composition as in claim 13, wherein the protein comprises gelatin.

15. A composition as in claim 12, wherein the hydrogel comprises a polysaccharide.

16. A composition as in claim 12, wherein the hydrogel comprises a non-biological polymer.

17. A composition as in claim 12, wherein the hydrogel comprises two of the following components a) a protein, b) a polysaccharide, and c) a non-biological polymer.

18. A composition as in claim 12, wherein the hydrogel comprises a) a protein, b) a polysaccharide and c) a non-biological polymer.